FIVE YEARS PERSONAL NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF HATLEY, STANSTEAD COUNTY, QUEBEC — 1911–1915.

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As far as I have been able to gather very little if anything has been published on the birds of this particular part of the country, and it may be well therefore to give some indication as to the exact location of Hatley and the County of Stanstead, of which the former forms one of the northern divisions. Looking at the map the county of Stanstead will be found stowed away as it were almost in the extreme southeast corner of the Province of Quebec; the southern border adjoining the State of Vermont, whilst the nearest point on the eastern side is within ten miles of the borders of New Hampshire, and thirty of Maine. The entire county comprises an area of about 410 square miles or 263,000 acres. Few parts of the country present a greater variety of surface than Stanstead County. The land on the eastern shore of Lake Memphremagog (a large sheet of water some 33 miles in length and from one to three miles in width) and extending through Hatley on the west side of Lake Massawippi is hilly and broken, the most prominent elevations being the Bunker and Massawippi hills, the latter rising to about 1400 feet above the sea level. The courses of the four principal rivers, the Barlow, Negro, Coaticook and Massawippi (none of which are of any great size or importance) are marked by uneven banks and hilly ground which generally extends for about a mile on each side. The three first have their source in the State of Vermont from which they flow in a northerly direction, the Barlow and Negro on the left hand side of the county and the Coaticook on the right side, the two former emptying themselves into Lake Massawippi at its southern extremity and being conveyed away at the northern end by the Massawippi river; which after flowing in a northeasterly direction for about eight miles joins the St. Francis near Lennoxville the same as the Coaticook river does on the east side, and thus the waters of these four rivers eventually find their way into the St. Lawrence by means of the St. Francis,

about midway between Montreal and Quebec, this waterway, no doubt, forming at least one of the minor highways of migration if not a principal one. The greatest elevation in the eastern part of the county is Barnston Mountain. In many places the surface is undulating and resembles the rolling prairies of the west, with no prominent hills. With the exception of some marshy ground and about 800 acres known as the "Burnt District," both near Lake Massawippi there is but little waste land in the county, the greater part of the hilly ground being adapted to cultivation or pasturage.

The soil in its native state was highly fertile and productive, the hills and higher grounds being covered with a heavy growth of maple, beech, birch, hop hornbeam, and white ash, whilst the lower grounds produced elm, basswood, cherry, butternut, poplar, hemlock, spruce, pine, cedar, fir and tamarack, but in their mistaken idea that the strength of the soil would always continue, the earlier settlers devastated the County of most of its valuable timber, until at the present day many of the farms have barely sufficient trees left for firewood and building purposes and to form sugaries. The County is divided into five townships, of which Hatley forms the principal northern one, the village being situated between latitude 45° 10′ and 45° 12′ north and longitude 71° 55′ and 71° 57′ west, and deriving its name from a village in England, no doubt that of East Hatley in the Diocese of Ely Cambridgeshire. The survey determining its original boundary was made in 1792 and subdivision into lots in 1795 and by 1815 it had become a place of some little business and importance, but now owing to the fact that the nearest railway station is between three and four miles away, the business done in former days when railways did not exist, has been removed to other towns and villages adjacent to the centers of transport. Owing to this lack of a railway, however, the village at the present day retains most of its original charm and beauty. It lies at an elevation of about 1000 feet above the sea level, and almost through its entire length there runs a fine avenue of maple trees. On the east it is backed by some hilly and well wooded ground rising 350 feet or more above the level of the village, whilst to the north and west the ground after rising for some distance falls away gradually until it reaches the level of Lake Massawippi, a fine sheet of water nine miles in length, with an average

width of about a mile. This lake together with that of Magog a little further north, and Lake Memphremagog to the south, are the three principal sheets of water in the County, affording excellent fishing at times, as well as a resting place for large flocks of ducks in the autumn. In years gone by the St. Francis tribe of Indians used to visit Lake Massawippi (even after the advent of the white settlers) for the purpose of fishing, trapping mink, coon, otter and beaver, etc., as well as hunting moose and deer, all of which were then found in abundance, but most have long since disappeared with the march of civilization! On the south side of the village runs the main road to Stanstead, the country assuming more of a level aspect with Bunkers hills in the distance on the right whilst the high rising ground on the east side of Hatley, extends for some considerable distance in the direction of what is known as Barnston Mountain. The district all round Hatley is entirely an agricultural one, dairy farming, hog raising, and the maple sugar industry forming the farmers' principal source of income. In addition to the maple trees there still remains a fair sprinkling of elm, beech, birch, cherry, butternut, poplar, hemlock, cedar, fir, pine and tamaracks, which with numerous small streams and the undulating nature of the country, form an excellent home for the various breeding birds, and resting place for the migratory ones that visit the district.

Although the list contains some 122 species, 63 of which have actually been found breeding (besides another 17 some of which are known and others believed to breed more or less frequently, but whose eggs have not yet been found), it must not be assumed that it is by any means complete, as very little has been done with regard to the Hawks and Owls, most attention having been paid to the Sandpipers, Sparrows and Warblers.

The position of Hatley makes its avifauna interesting lying as it does at the mouth of a "cul de sac" so to speak of the Canadian Zone, which has its termination in the States of Vermont and New Hampshire, with spurs of the Transition zone extending north on each side of it, the one on the right hand into southern Maine to about latitude 45°, whilst that on the left extends still further north, or to about latitude 47°. It follows naturally that the fauna is chiefly Canadian with a good deal of Transition or Alleghanian,

and a slight sprinkling of Hudsonian. Of the Canadian species such characteristic ones as the White-throated Sparrow and Winter Wren are getting very near their extreme southern breeding limits, whilst of the Transition forms, Hatley apparently, lies outside the regular breeding area of the Sora, Indigo Bunting, Red-breasted Grosbeak and Cowbird, the latter of which until the present summer (1915) was almost unknown even as a transient visitor.

In that charming book the "Birds of Maine" Mr. Ora W. Knight, on page 507, speaking of the Myrtle Warbler says, "The scattered flocks pass on leaving here and there a pair of mated birds, in many instances individuals being found frequenting the very same localities from year to year under conditions which would almost warrant the assumption that the very same individual birds had returned to their summer homes." With regard to this most interesting subject I will say that my five years' observations over a restricted area (mentioned hereafter) have more than "almost warranted" as the late Mr. Knight says, the assumption, they have entirely convinced me of the fact that the very same birds do come back year after year to the site endeared to them by the previous year's associations. If this is not so how can the following instances be lightly put on one side and explained away. In May, 1914, in a particular corner of the marsh I took a set of Swamp Sparrow's eggs, of a very handsome type, differing from any other set in a most marked degree. Visiting the same locality the following year I flushed a bird from another set of eggs, almost identical to those of the previous year. Again a set of Spotted Sandpiper's was taken on May 20, 1912, the earliest set ever found, and much below the average size, being in fact the smallest set I have ever seen or can hear of, the average dimensions being 1.18× .92 in. only. In the following year on the same side of the marsh and not far from the other nest, I found on May 25 (also the earliest date for that year) another set identical in size, 1.19 × .91 in., shape and markings, to that of the previous year. Finally a set of the White-throated Sparrow was taken in May, 1914, on the outskirts of a small damp wood, the birds building another nest almost at once close by, under the drooping branch of a small cedar bush, which I did not molest.

Visiting this same bush the following year another nest was

found within one inch of the other, in fact it was only the bough of the branch resting on the ground that divided the two nests. Am I in this case to believe that a strange pair of birds not only selected this same wood, but also the same part of it, and moreover the very identical bush in it, and spot under that bush, to build their nest in, if so; then I can only say it seems to savour of the uncanny. If space permitted I could enumerate many other similar instances to the above, with regard to the Myrtle Warbler, Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Bluebird and others. Of course I do not believe that in every case both birds can return, in some no doubt they do, in others it may be the male or female only, but which ever it is, that one, after selecting a new mate, will no doubt lead him or her as the case may be to the locality of the old nesting site. At all events this is the light in which I prefer to look upon it, leaving others to enjoy their own views on a subject, which, after all, is perhaps too deep for any of us to fathom with certainty.

In conclusion I may say that nearly all of my records have been made on some six farms (the smallest of which only some 75 acres in extent has produced 100 out of the 122 species enumerated and 47 of the 63 breeding records) one and one half miles south of the village consisting of about 1000 acres, on which is situated the little marsh so often referred to, especially in the case of the Sandpipers as "the marsh." This was originally a wood through which a small stream flowed, and lying in a natural hollow it was an easy matter, when the timber was cut down, to form a dam at the lower end and thus spread the water from the stream and surrounding sloping ground, over a surface of about 15 acres. In the summer time owing to the little rainfall and a bad leak near the dam the water level gets very low, leaving large beds of silt and mud exposed, with patches of cat-tails, forming an excellent feeding ground for marsh and shore birds, so much so that although there are several other small marshes in the neighbourhood, none of them present anything like the attraction that this one does (owing to its especially large mud beds) at all events to the Sandpipers, very few of which I have found anywhere else. The following synopsis will show at a glance to the best of my judgment the number in each order, and status of the 122 species enumerated in the text.

Order	Residents No. of Species	Summer Visitants No. of Species	Winter Visitants No. of Species	Transients No. of Species	Breeding, nests & eggs actually found No. of Species	Known, or believed to breed but no eggs found No. of Species
Anseres				4		
Herodiones		1		1	1	
Paludicolæ		1		1	1	
Limicolæ		2		10	2	
Gallinæ	2				1	1
Raptores	1	2		6		3
Coccyges		1		1	1	1
Pici	3	2			4	1
Macrochires		2		1	1	1
Passeres						
Sparrows		7		3	7	
Wood Warblers		13		4	10	3
Flycatchers and others	4	35	5	10	35	7
	10	66	5	41	63	17
			122 species			

1. **Anas rubripes** (Brewster). BLACK DUCK.— Common transient; (April 11) Aug. 6 to Oct. 17; (Nov. 25). Average date of arrival (for two years) Aug. 15; of departure (for two years) Oct. 14. Small flocks of this duck usually visit the marsh during the months of August to October, the date in April being for a pair only, and that in November for a single. They fly high as a rule with no fixed formation, and are very wary and difficult to approach when settled on the water. The total number of birds observed during the fall of 1914 was 95, the largest flock consisting of eighteen, as against 21 for the present year with a total of 93 birds.

2. **Nettion carolinense** (Gmelin). GREEN-WINGED TEAL.— Rare transient; Oct. 11. The above date of the present year, 1915, is the only one on which I have shot (or seen to identify) an example of this smallest of ducks, although on April 18 of this same year, I have an entry in my note book as follows, viz: "Small duck seen in the distance probably a teal?" I feel pretty sure now that it was one of this species. The present one was a female and alone, and when weighed just turned the scales at thirteen ounces.

3. **Chen hyperborea nivalis** (Forster). GREATER SNOW GOOSE.— Rare transient; April 6. A flock of fifteen of these fine birds passed over in the afternoon of the above date, 1914. They were heading north spread out in a gentle curve, and not in a sharp defined V shape. As no specimen was obtained I have adopted the generally recognized rule, that birds passing

to the breeding grounds in the far north by way of the eastern side of the Mississippi valley, belong to this species and not to the Lesser Snow Goose.

4. **Branta canadensis** (Linnæus). CANADA GOOSE.— Common transient; April 25 to May 2; Oct. 16 to Nov. 25. Flocks of from 20 to 30 of these geese can usually be seen both during the day and night, heading either north or south as the case may be, and generally spread out in a well defined V shape.

5. **Botaurus lentiginosus** (Montagu). AMERICAN BITTERN.— Fairly common summer visitant; April 24 to Sept. 29. Average date of arrival (for four years) April 27; of departure (for three years) Sept. 28. Eggs: May 29 to June 14. A pair of bitterns visit the marsh every year, but I have only succeeded in finding their nest on two occasions, the eggs on June 14 being heavily incubated, and hatching out some few days later. Of all the ugly little spitfires young bitterns beat anything I have ever seen. I suppose I must consider myself lucky in having been able to watch a male bittern boom for nearly half an hour, although the spectacle was not very edifying, reminding one somewhat of a person in the throes of seasickness. However, I suppose his lady love thought otherwise, and no doubt was duly impressed by the ceremony.

6. **Ardea herodias** (Linnæus). GREAT BLUE HERON.— Fairly common transient; April 19 to May 31; July 25 to Nov. 13. Average date of arrival (for four years) April 26; of departure (for three years) Nov. 8. One or two of these handsome birds can be found at most times on the marsh during the above dates.

7. **Rallus virginianus** (Linnæus). VIRGINIA RAIL.— Rare transient visitor; July 22 to 24. On the first of the above dates in the present year (1915), I saw (and shot for identification) my first example of this rail, and on the latter date saw another in about the same place, on the edge of the reeds, which no doubt was its mate.

8. **Porzana carolina** (Linnæus). CAROLINA RAIL OR SORA.— Rare summer visitant; May 23 to Oct. 12. Eggs: July 22. Up to July of the present year (1915) I had only seen two examples of this rail in October, and it was with much surprise therefore, whilst walking through a bed of cat-tails in the marsh on the above date in July, that I came across a nest containing six young birds which had just hatched and two addled eggs, which latter I was able to preserve as cabinet specimens. The nest was composed entirely of old dry cat-tail leaves, and when found the top was five and one half inches above the surface of the ground, upon which it rested, the water in the marsh being nearly all dried up at this date. There was a well defined approach from the ground to the summit of the nest, but apparently no canopy.

9. **Philohela minor** (Gmelin). AMERICAN WOODCOCK.— Rare transient; May 7 to 10. After three years repeated failure to find any traces of this bird, I flushed one on the first of the above dates in 1914, from underneath a cedar tree, and came upon it again three days later, whilst it was standing dozing at the edge of a little alder run, not far from the spot where I first put it up.

10. **Gallinago delicata** (Ord). WILSON'S SNIPE.— Fairly common transient; (Aug. 30, Sept. 14, 20); Oct. 2 to Nov. 9. The usual date of the fall arrival here seems to be about the first, or beginning of the second week in October, only a single bird in each case having been observed on the dates in August and September. During the fall of 1914 I counted thirty-nine between the above dates in October and November, as against only about a sixth of this number for the corresponding period of the previous year; fourteen being the greatest number seen in a single day. This year 15 examples have been noted. I am unable to give a spring date not having yet observed the bird at that season.

11. **Pisobia maculata** (Vieillot). PECTORAL SANDPIPER.— Fairly common transient; July 22 to Oct. 21. I have only seen thirty-five examples of the Pectoral Sandpiper so far, two in July, five in August (one of which was in the company of two Lesser Yellow-legs), fourteen in September, and fourteen in October, most of which latter were feeding with Wilson's snipe. At times they are not at all shy, and I have watched them feeding on several occasions within quite a short distance. In this species the males, contrary to the general rule amongst the Sandpipers, are the larger, one I shot weighing five ounces and taking just two females to balance the other side of the scales. They make excellent eating when properly cooked like snipe. I am unable to give a spring date, not having yet observed the bird at that season.

12. **Pisobia minutilla** (Vieillot). LEAST SANDPIPER.— Common transient; May 23 to June 2; July 10 to Sept. 4. Of all the Sandpipers enumerated this is the most abundant, as I find from my notes that during the past and present year (1915), 114 examples have been seen, and with four exceptions (three of which numbered between twelve and eighteen and the other twenty-five) they did not exceed six in a flock, and on many occasions singles only were observed. In the case of this species as well as in that of all the other shore birds observed here, the autumn migration produces by far the greatest number of birds.

13. **Ereunetes pusillus** (Linnæus). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.— Fairly common transient; May 23 to 29; July 22 to Sept. 4. This elegant little Sandpiper is not nearly so plentiful as the Least, in fact I have never seen a flock composed entirely of them, they were always in the company of the latter. By carefully examining these mixed flocks and taking the same dates as mentioned in the account of the Least Sandpiper, I find only thirty-five were observed as against the 114 of the latter, thus giving a proportion of about three to one.

14. **Totanus melanoleucus** (Gmelin). GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.— Rare transient; May 11 to 12; Aug. 3 to Oct. 24. Judging from the few examples seen of this bird, one in the spring and eight in the fall, it is not unreasonable to suppose that they are merely stragglers, and that Hatley lies outside the usual line of migration. When disturbed I noticed these birds had a habit of alighting on dead tree stumps (of which there are many in the marsh) where they would remain for long periods at a time, and from

which no doubt they were better able to keep a sharp lookout for any approaching danger.

15. **Totanus flavipes** (Gmelin). LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.— Rare transient; July 9 to Aug. 10. I have only seen seven examples of this bird so far, four in July and three in August, so that no doubt Hatley, as suggested in the case of the Greater Yellow-legs, lies outside the general line of migration. When disturbed these birds only gave vent to a single "wheu" as against the three uttered in succession by their cousin the Greater Yellow-legs, whose notes are also louder and harsher. I have never seen them alight on anything but the ground.

16. **Helodromas solitarius** (Wilson). SOLITARY SANDPIPER.— Common transient; May 9 to 31; July 18 to Oct. 21. Average date of arrival (for three years) May 19; of departure (for two years) Oct. 7. On a few occasions only have I seen this Sandpiper in the company of others, and then generally the Least was its companion. It is particularly fond of wading about in the water up to its belly, but only on two occasions have I seen it swim. On the first of these a bird deliberately waded out of its depth, and then took to swimming about for half a minute or so, in the most matter of fact way, and on the second a wing tipped bird swam half way across the marsh before being able to reach a little mudbank on which it alighted. During the past two years I have observed seventy of these birds, the largest number seen together being six on one occasion only, whilst three, four and five have been noted several times. Only once have I seen it alight on the top of a tree stump, the ground or a log in my experience being the usual place. I see no reason why some day they should not be found breeding here, as the ponds they frequent with the surrounding woods seem likely enough places.

17. **Bartramia longicauda** (Bechstein). BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.— Rare summer visitant; May 10 to Aug. 20. Eggs: May 24. It was on the 24th of May, 1913, that I received word of a bird of this species, having been shot at close range, as it rose suddenly from the ground late the previous evening. Naturally I was not long in visiting the farm, which was only some few miles away, and being shown the field and place near where the bird had risen, I soon came across the nest, which was a natural depression in the ground in the centre of a bunch of buttercups, lined with dry grasses only, and contained a beautiful set of four evenly spotted eggs (average size 1.72 × 1.23), one being of a much lighter ground colour than the other three. The following year I was again notified that a pair of birds were about, but on the only two occasions on which I was able to visit the locality, I failed to locate their nest, although I have every reason to believe, they brought up a brood, as they were seen and heard several times again during the remainder of the summer. During the present year (1915) a parent bird with young was seen by two parties in the same district in which my set of eggs was taken, although at somewhat widely different points, so that possibly the breeding area and number of birds is larger than I imagined. However this may be, I look upon it as quite

my most interesting find, especially in view of the fact that during the past few years its numbers are considered to be increasing in northeastern United States, and let us hope in eastern Quebec also.

18. **Actitis macularia** (Linnæus). SPOTTED SANDPIPER.— Common summer visitant; May 1 to Sept. 24. Average date of arrival (for five years) May 4; of departure (for three years) Sept. 10. Eggs: May 20 to June 21. Usually not less than six pairs of this familiar little sandpiper breed on the margins of the marsh, and one of the most interesting events I have witnessed happened with regard to this species. I had shot an immature bird (for a cabinet specimen) which fell at the edge of the water, but on proceeding to the spot to pick it up as I thought was surprised to see it wading out in the water, where after getting out of its depth it sank to the bottom, and I could see it there in the clear water proceeding at a great pace by means of its wings and feet for a small mud bank, where it came to the surface and hid in the surrounding rushes. Persistent searching in late June and through July has failed to reveal any evidence of a second brood. Three eggs in a set are rare, only one out of fifteen nests examined having this number all the others containing four. On one occasion only have I seen a very excited parent bird with young alight on a cat-tail head, and very out of place and uncomfortable it seemed to be. It may not be generally known that these birds if flushed whilst constructing their nest invariably desert it, at least this has been my experience on four occasions, when I have flushed both birds whilst in the act of scooping out or lining the hole. In one instance, however, they made a fresh nest within forty-five feet of the old one. Most of the birds leave about the end of July or beginning of August, those remaining into September being immatures only.

19. **Oxyechus vociferus** (Linnæus). KILLDEER.— Rare transient; July 31. The above date of the present year (1915) is the only occasion on which I have come across this handsome plover, and then only one was seen feeding by itself on the edge of the marsh. By careful stalking and hiding in the cat-tail beds I was able on two occasions to get quite close to it.

20. **Ægialitis semipalmata** (Bonaparte). SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.— Rare transient; May 23 to 28; July 22 to Aug. 16. It is only during the present year (1915) that I have come across this pretty little plover, and then only fifteen examples have been noted between the above dates, the greatest number seen together being four on two occasions. In three cases they were alone and in the other five Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were their companions.

21. **Canachites canadensis canace** (Linnæus). CANADIAN SPRUCE GROUSE.— Rare resident. This is decidedly a rare bird in the immediate vicinity of Hatley. I have never shot or even seen one (during the past five years) until the evening of Oct. 21 of the present year, 1915, when a female was shown to me in the flesh that had been shot in the morning.

22. **Bonasa umbellus togata** (Linnæus). CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE.— Common resident; Eggs: May 15 to 30. As far as my observations have gone for the past five years, this fine game bird has remained

in "status quo" neither increasing nor decreasing. It is by no means plentiful at any time but judging from the number of broods seen earlier on, the present season, 1915, should prove to be above the average. Nests usually contain from eight to ten eggs, only on one occasion have I found as many as thirteen. In some cases it is not unusual for a few eggs in a set to be spotted, but I have a unique one of ten in which every egg is well spotted, not at the larger end as is usual but at the smaller, an uncommon occurrence even in the case of a single egg of any bird. I have never had the good fortune to catch a male in the act of drumming, although I have known of several drumming logs.

23. **Circus hudsonius** (Linnæus). MARSH HAWK.— Common summer visitant; April 14 to Oct. 17. Average date of arrival (for four years) April 18; of departure (for four years) Sept. 22. Although a pair of these birds have frequented some low lying overgrown marshy meadows for the past four summers, I have been unable so far to locate their nest, but have seen the young later on in the season hawking over the locality in company with the parent birds.

24. **Accipiter velox** (Wilson). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.— Rare transient; May 3, Oct. 21. This little hawk must be rare in the district for the above dates of the present year (1915) are the only ones on which I have seen examples, notwithstanding I have invariably rapped on every evergreen tree containing a likely looking nest, in the hope of putting one up during the breeding season. When seen the one in May was flying low down and gave me a good view of its long square ended tail, the other in October was that of a male shot in the morning and shown to me in the flesh a few hours afterwards.

25. **Astur atricapillus atricapillus** (Wilson). GOSHAWK.— Rare transient; Oct. 21. The above date in 1914 is the only one on which I have seen an example of this hawk. It was an adult bird in fine plumage and was shot near a sugar house in some woods early in the morning and shown to me the same evening.

26. **Buteo borealis borealis** (Gmelin). RED-TAILED HAWK.— Rare transient; Oct. 29. The only example I have seen of this hawk was that of a fine adult bird which (contrary to its general custom) had been robbing a hen yard, and was eventually caught in a trap on the above date, and shown to me alive the same day.

27. **Buteo lineatus lineatus** (Gmelin). RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.— Common summer visitant; March 28 to Oct. 25. Average date of arrival (for three years) March 29; of departure (for three years) Oct. 21. This is undoubtedly the commonest of the large hawks in this district, and at least four pairs nest in the surrounding woods, although not having given much attention to them as yet, I can only record having actually found one inhabited nest which contained young. On one occasion I witnessed a pair of Kingbirds who had a nest in some drowned land on the outskirts of a large wood so mob and terrify a young hawk of this species that it seemed to lose the power of flight, and floundered about in the water until it became a most

miserable and bedraggled object, and it was not until the Kingbirds had left him that he ventured to essay a short flight on to a stub, where he dried his wings, and at intervals uttered shrill cries as if invoking his parents to come to his aid.

28. **Haliæetus leucocephalus leucocephalus** (Linnæus). BALD EAGLE.— Uncommon transient; Aug. 1. A specimen of this fine eagle was shot on the above date in 1914, on a farm just outside Hatley village, and was set up by a local taxidermist. I have since had the pleasure of seeing the bird and found it to be an immature one in fine plumage. It weighed seven and one half pounds so I was told, and the spread of its wings was seven feet.

29. **Falco columbarius columbarius** (Linnæus). PIGEON HAWK.— Rare transient; Oct. 5. The above date of the present year (1915) is the only one on which I have seen an example of this little falcon. When first seen it flew just over my head (whilst I was in a cat-tail bed in the marsh after snipe) in hot pursuit of a small bird, and I was afterwards able to get quite close to it while perched on a dead tree on the lookout for further quarry.

30. **Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis** (Gmelin). OSPREY.— Rare transient; May 3 to 5. Average date of arrival for two years May 4. During the above dates in May of this (1915) and last year, a pair of these birds have visited the neighbourhood and remained to fish in the waters of the marsh, where at intervals they could be seen dropping like an arrow, generally rising with a fish in their talons.

31. **Strix varia varia** (Barton). BARRED OWL.— Fairly common resident. Although I have only actually seen this Owl in the flesh on five occasions in April, October and November, its hooting has been beard in almost every month of the year, and for this reason I think it may be safely included under the above heading. I often regret the want of a younger companion who would help me work up the Owls and Hawks, as there must be many more species than I am able to record at present.

32. **Coccyzus erythrophthalmus** (Wilson). BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. — Fairly common summer visitant; May 26 to Aug. 27. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 29. Eggs: June 12 to 21. This is by no means a plentiful bird and during the summer of 1914, I was unable to locate a single nest, and only saw it on two occasions, both of which were in July. Of the five nests found so far none were placed at a height of more than seven feet above the ground, and all but one were lined with willow catkins, the contents in every case being a set of three eggs, one set containing a runt egg, size .87 × .71.

33. **Ceryle alcyon** (Linnæus). BELTED KINGFISHER.— Fairly common transient; May 3 to 22; July 19 to Oct. 7. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 11; of departure (for two years) Sept. 30. Every spring a pair of these birds frequent the marsh during May, and can generally be found perched on a stump or fence rail, from which at intervals they rise into the air preparatory to plunging down on some unsuspecting fish that

has caught their eye. In the fall they return again but strange to say never accompanied by any of their brood.

34. **Dryobates villosus leucomelas** (Boddært). NORTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.— Fairly common resident. Eggs: May 28. With the exception of the Pileated this is the rarest of the woodpeckers, being somewhat uncommon at all times, and only nesting so far as my experience goes in woodlands. As a rule the nest hole is somewhat high up but on one occasion I found one which was only three feet above the ground in a birch stub, containing four eggs, the entrance hole being two inches in diameter, extreme depth eleven inches and average width two and three quarters inches.

35. **Dryobates pubescens medianus** (Swainson). NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.— Common resident. Eggs: May 22 to June 9. This little Woodpecker is certainly more plentiful during the spring, fall and winter than it is in the breeding season, although it is more abundant than the Hairy at all times. I have not yet found it nesting in any of the orchards, the favourite site in this district being the decayed limb of a maple or birch tree in the woods or on the roadside, at almost any height above the ground. The average dimensions of three nesting holes examined are as follows, viz.: entrance hole $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter, extreme depth 8 inches, and width $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

36. **Spyrapicus varius varius** (Linnæus). YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.— Common summer visitant; April 19 to Oct. 8. Average date of arrival (for four years) April 22; of departure (for four years) Sept. 22. Eggs: May 18 to 20. During the spring and fall migrations this is certainly the most abundant woodpecker of all, and in the breeding season is not far behind the Flicker for first place. Like the latter bird it often nests year after year in the same tree (but not necessarily in the same hole) the favourite ones here being elm, poplar and butternut. In April it is particularly fond of drumming on the buckets hung on the maple trees to catch the sap. Of two nests examined the average dimensions are as follows, viz.: entrance hole $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, extreme depth $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and width $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

37. **Phlœotomus pileatus abieticola** (Bangs). NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.— Fairly common resident. This large and handsome Woodpecker is by no means very plentiful, and covering a large area of ground in its daily round in search of food it is more or less by accident that one comes across it. During the breeding season it frequents the larger and deeper woods and as yet I have not been able to locate a nest. From my notes I find thirty-four have been observed in the past five years, and on one occasion a party of five were together, a sight not easily forgotten. Of the above number, fourteen, or nearly one half, were observed during the months of March, April and May, the balance occurring in the fall and winter.

38. **Colaptes auratus luteus** (Bangs). NORTHERN FLICKER.— Common summer visitant; April 19 to Oct. 12. Average date of arrival (for five years) April 21; of departure (for four years) Sept. 28. Eggs: May 18

to June 2. Decidedly the most common of all the woodpeckers nesting year after year in the same tree (generally a birch or maple) but not always occupying the previous year's hole, which as a rule does not exceed fifteen feet above the ground. The average dimensions of five nests examined are as follows, viz.: entrance hole $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, extreme depth $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and width $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The number of eggs in a set varies a good deal, six about here appearing to be the most usual, although on one occasion I found as many as eleven.

39. **Chordeiles virginianus virginianus** (Gmelin). NIGHTHAWK.— Rare transient; Sept. 1 to 2. I have only seen eight examples of this bird, four on the evening of Sept. 2 of last year, and the same number curiously enough on the evening of Sept. 1 of the present year, 1915. On both occasions the evenings were very sultry and the birds were hawking over the marsh, at intervals emitting their loud nasal " peents."

40. **Chætura pelagica** (Linnæus). CHIMNEY SWIFT.— Common summer visitant; May 13 to Sept. 7. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 15; of departure (for two years) Sept. 1. Eggs: June 15. A pair of Chimney Swifts have nested for several years in the chimney stack of my landlord, which during the summer months is not used. I have also found their nest attached to the inside of the perpendicular boards at the gable end of a hay barn.

41. **Archilochus colubris** (Linnæus). RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.— Fairly common summer visitant; May 23 to Sept. 21. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 26; of departure (for four years) Sept. 14. At the flowers of a row of scarlet runners or the trunk of a certain birch tree (well pierced with sapsucker holes) I am always sure of finding one if not a pair of hummingbirds. It is a curious medley that gathers at the latter place, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Hummingbirds are all to be found at this one particular tree regaling themselves on the sap that has gathered in the little holes. I have often watched the birds on hovering wings extracting the nectar or flies from the scarlet flowers of the beans, and then perch on some adjacent runner, where resting they would insert their bills into the nearest flowers and go on feeding. This is another of the few summer visitants whose nest I have so far failed to discover notwithstanding persistent searching.

42. **Tyrannus tyrannus** (Linnæus). KINGBIRD.— Common summer visitant; May 3 to Aug. 25. Average date of arrival (for five years) May 8; of departure (for three years) Aug. 22. Eggs: June 3 to July 15. Probably every orchard has its Kingbirds, a pair having nested in one near my house for four consecutive years if not longer, repairing the nest each year. In 1912 they were robbed of two sets of eggs and in desperation forsook the apple tree and took possession of an old Baltimore Oriole's nest in the top of a maple tree in front of my house, in which strange home they laid a third set of eggs and brought up a brood. The following year they repaired the old nest in the apple tree again, thus showing what a strong attachment these birds have for a nesting site once selected. The pair of birds that so

mobbed the young Red-shouldered Hawk had their nest on the top of a small stump in the center of the drowned land, and another curious situation selected by a pair of birds was right on the top of a small bush in the centre of a field. About here three and four, more generally three, seem to be the usual number of eggs in a set; five I have never found and only once a set of two. They are fond of hawking over the marsh and I have seen them strike the water like a swallow on one or two occasions.

43. **Myiarchus crinitus** (Linnæus). CRESTED FLYCATCHER.— Fairly common summer visitant; May 10 to Sept. 9. Average date of arrival (for two years) May 12; of departure (for two years) Sept. 5. Eggs: June 25 to July 10. Previous to the spring of 1914, I had not observed this handsome flycatcher, but am glad to say that since then it has been fairly plentiful, although I have only been able to locate two nests, the one on the above date in July containing the remarkable small set of two eggs only. The nest was in an old woodpecker's hole and when found the female was on the nest, the eggs being somewhat well incubated. In addition to the usual materials this nest contained a large quantity of human hair combings, but no trace of snake skins could be found, which remark also applies to the other nest, which contained a set of five eggs, and was placed also in an old woodpecker's hole twelve feet up in a birch tree in the centre of a field.

44. **Sayornis phœbe** (Latham). PHŒBE.— Common summer visitant; April 13 to Oct. 13. Average date of arrival (for five years) April 14; of departure (for four years) Sept. 28. Eggs: May 14 to June 26. Bridges not being very plentiful in this part of the country, the Phœbe has to content itself with the beams of outbuildings and ledges of verandas for nesting sites, and in the woods the sugar houses are made use of. At one farm house I counted over eight nests in close proximity to one another. This year (1915) a pair built on my veranda and a set of eggs was laid by May 14. These I took at nightfall and substituted three addled Bluebird's eggs with a view of seeing what the Phœbe would do when they failed to hatch out at the proper time. On these substitutes she sat steadily for the first fortnight, then began to leave the nest at intervals, but it was not until after June 16 that I noted a change, when both birds appeared to be taking building material again to the nest. Naturally I became very much interested but not wishing to disturb them, did not inspect the nest again until the 26th, when I found what perhaps has never before been described of this species, viz.: that it had raised the outside of the nest and had built over the offending bluebird's eggs, thus forming a two storied nest similar to a Yellow Warbler when she builds over a Cowbird's egg. At the date mentioned the Phœbe had laid a fresh set of four eggs, which hatched out on July 12, and the young birds left the nest on or about the 29th. I have two sets in which spotted eggs occur.

45. **Myiochanes virens** (Linnæus). WOOD PEWEE.— Fairly common summer visitant; May 25 to Sept. 16. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 29; of departure (for three years) Sept. 8.—This is one of the few summer visitants whose nest I have not yet succeeded in finding, but

this perhaps is not so surprising when one considers how well it harmonizes with its natural surroundings, and that the bird is by no means plentiful here, and seems to confine itself to the woods in preference to orchards and roadsides like the Kingbird and Least Flycatcher.

46. **Empidonax trailli alnorum** (Brewster). ALDER FLYCATCHER.— Common summer visitant; May 16 to Aug. 19. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 21; of departure (for three years) Aug. 17. Eggs: June 8 to July 17. It is only by nest hunting that one can gain any idea of the abundance or otherwise of this species, as the bird is most secretive and one rarely gets a good view of it in the open. It is fairly common here and I have had no difficulty in locating some five or six nests each season. A full set of eggs consists quite as often of three as four, but on one occasion I came across one of two only. In this case I had the nest under observation from the first day it was started and only took the eggs after incubation had been in progress some few days. Dr. Coues is the only author that I have noticed so far who mentions the fact of this bird sometimes laying two eggs in a set only.

47. **Empidonax minimus** (W. M. & S. F. Baird). LEAST FLYCATCHER.— Common summer visitant; May 9 to Aug. 20. Average date of arrival (for four years) May 13; of departure (for three years) Aug. 17. Eggs: June 1 to July 19. Most orchards contain their pair of "Chebecs," and one adjoining my house has been the home of a pair for the past four years. Only on one occasion have I found the birds nesting in the woods, and then it was a small one, and not far from a house. The late date of July 19 is for a second set of eggs, the first having been destroyed. In this case the bird built her second nest not only in the same tree, but in the very same fork as the first one had been placed in, surely a most unusual occurrence.

48. **Otocoris alpestris praticola** (Henshaw). PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.— Fairly common summer visitant; March 7 to June 22. Average date of arrival (for four years) March 15. Eggs: April 14 to 23. It was not until April of the present year (1915) that I discovered this interesting species breeding here, four nests being located during the month. So many new facts were noticed with regard to its nesting habits that I have written a special article (which will appear in this Journal) dealing fully with the subject, and showing a nest with "paving", a trait which hitherto I believe has only been noted with regard to the Desert Horned species. Contrary to the generally accepted idea that it never perches in trees, I have seen it do so on many occasions, but this has been dealt with also in the aforesaid article. Of the four nests located all were warmly lined with the flower heads and plant down of the pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) a plant which is most abundant here. Three contained a set of four eggs each and the remaining one three young birds, this latter nest being in a very damp situation, and the paving consisting of very small flat stones instead of cow-chips as in the others, which were all in dry situations.

49. **Pica pica hudsonia** (Sabine). MAGPIE.— Very rare accidental transient; Oct. 17. Well acquainted with the Magpie in England I was pleased to make its unexpected acquaintance again on the above date of the present year (1915), when a pair passed in front of me and flew right across the marsh, thus giving me a long uninterrupted view of them. In an interesting letter received from Mr. Taverner he says "I understand that many years ago some European Magpies were liberated at Levis opposite Quebec, and I have always surmised that these scattered records (of which we have a fair number in this end of the Dominion well supported by everything but specimens) are the progeny of these birds." Unfortunately the above date was a Sunday and consequently I had no gun with me as usual, otherwise I should certainly have shot an example, which might have solved this most interesting question, although the European bird is hardly to be distinguished from the American subspecies.

50. **Cyanocitta cristata cristata** (Linnæus). BLUE JAY.— Common. resident; rare in summer, common in spring and fall, less so in winters Eggs: May 24. Evidently the Blue Jay betakes itself to very secluded spots during the breeding season, as I have only succeeded so far in finding one nest, in May of the present year (1915), and had never seen the bird before during the months of June, July and August. It is most abundant in the spring and fall, becoming scarcer during the winter months. The above nest was placed thirteen feet up in a small fir tree on the borders of a swampy wood, and consisted outwardly of twigs and rootlets, lined with fine black rootlets only, and contained four eggs.

51. **Perisoreus canadensis canadensis** (Linnæus). CANADA JAY.— Rare transient; Oct. 21. There is no doubt about the Canada Jay being a rare bird in this district, the only example I have seen in five years is that of a bird shot on the morning of the above date in the present year (1915), and shown to me in the flesh the same evening.

52. **Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos** (Brehm). CROW.— Abundant summer visitant; March 10 to Nov. 15. Average date of arrival (for five years) March 9; of departure (for three years) Nov. 8. Eggs: April 23 to May 14. In this district the favourite nesting site is usually at the top of some thick fir tree, where the nest is well hidden from view. Apparently there is some large roost to the northeast of Hatley, as large flocks of the birds can be seen every evening during the fall wending their way there for the night. I have seen a crow descend on a hen coop, seize a young chick which was outside and fly off with it in its claws.

(*To be concluded.*)